

Whig & Courier.

SOUTELLE (A. BURR. PROPRIETORS.)

C. A. SOUTELLE, EDITOR.

ALL BUSINESS NOTICES should be addressed to Soutelle & Burr, and communications intended for publication should be addressed to "Editor of Whig & Courier."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1883.

STRIKES AND THEIR PREVENTION.

(By the North American.)

We have nowhere seen in any newspaper a proposition to prohibit strikes by law, but the New York Herald assumes that the Republican party has in view, and that the press of the party is favorable to the enactment of the prohibitory law. In the first place a strike pure and simple can no more be prohibited by law than the refusal of a single man to render service to any other for wages. As any man is free to work or starve, so ten thousand men are equally free to work or play. At least no law can be made to prohibit a government from preventing citizens from working. In view of the fact, or of these facts, the transmutation of the Herald is quite absurd, though not more so than its usual views of economic questions.

As we have said, no newspaper that has fallen under our notice has proposed to compel men to work for any wages whatever. The North American has never failed strikes on any occasion, but because it denies the right of men to strike, but because it is not for the interest of men to strike, just not for the interest of men to employ parties to a strike. Neither strikes nor lockouts are strictly legitimate modes of composing differences that arise between employers and employees. It has never been shown, and it never will be shown, that workmen have ever gained anything like what they have lost by refusing to work for stipulated wages. The workmen lose time, and that is a loss without reclamation. The value of that time, estimated at current wages, is absolutely lost as far as the employer is concerned. It is not the employer, whose dead capital remains idle, is just as utter. Here we have two utter losses accruing to strikes and lockouts and not a trace of gain. If strikes violated anything except the right of men to refuse to work, something might be said in their justification. But they violate nothing more, and as that is not denied, the vindication is unnecessary.

Of course it will be said that the workmen people have no other remedy. There can be no statute prohibiting the wage rate and the operators cannot in any other way compel the employers to increase that rate. That is the question. There is a remedy for the disability complained of, and it is applied elsewhere. The remedy is arbitration. Not statutory arbitration, but arbitration as a matter of course. They can make the arbitration of matters in controversy a part of the contract. They can say to the employer, "We will render a certain amount of service for so much pay, but should the circumstances of trade make an increase of compensation necessary, we will confer together and readjust the wage rate." They can refuse to enter into the employ of any man in default of this agreement. By means of the association of workmen the labor market can be practically controlled in this manner. A mutual point will give a wage rate which both accept. And that rate can neither be increased nor decreased without conference.

Of course both parties will at once begin to make difficulties. They will declare that the plan is not practicable. And it is practicable, unless the parties themselves are utterly impracticable. If both parties would leave the door open for disagreement and strike, very well. They will not have the sympathy of any right-minded person. If they want to quarrel, they will find a way to quarrel. If they want to agree, they will find a way to agree. We hold that every man has a right to say for himself that he will or will not accept certain wages. The right is undecidable. But what of the policy? Does it seem wise to demand the exercise of every right on all occasions? We deny that it does. We deny that it is wise to indulge in strikes and lockouts.

CATCHING THE WRONG "RASCALS."

If our Democratic friends want to avoid disturbance and confusion in their own ranks they will have to be a little more explicit in their warfare. Here is Governor Hamilton of Maryland, who from reading the same thing over and over in the Daily Parrot has evidently become impressed with the necessity for "turning the rascals out." And as the Daily Parrot has not at all been particular to say that it was a figure of speech by which it meant only "turn the Republicans out," Governor Hamilton has made the mistake of supposing that "rascals" of all sorts were to be ousted. Doubtless he, being a Democrat, would have much preferred to turn Republican rascals out if he could find any, but it somehow happened that all the rascals he had any knowledge of were Democrats, so in the innocence of his heart, not knowing that this is above all things precisely what he is doing, he has issued a proclamation to the people of Maryland, calling upon them to turn the Democratic rascals out.

And the Governor, unlike the other figures and facts and days and dates in support of his charges and as reasons for turning the rascals out. He shows that the last three Democratic Legislatures have made excessive appropriations, created needless offices, and encouraged wasteful and dishonest practices, and so on. He managed affairs as to make a thorough reform an imperative necessity. And he has shown that the Maryland Democrats have been found out by this time that the pickpocketous "Stop thief!" he has taken a chance.

ROBERT VERBURG DISMISSED. (By N. Y. Tribune.) The difference between the frank and mainly stand of the Republican party upon the tariff issue and the hypocrisy and double dealing of the Democrats is nowhere better stated than in the address of the National Union League, of America, to the American people, which has been issued by Congressman Boutelle, of Maine, William F. Cook, and General C. H. Grosvenor, the committee appointed by the League for that purpose. The address says: "On this great issue the Republican party can afford to ask judgment of the American people. The Democrats in their press and their conventions palter to a double sense, and fear to challenge the popular verdict by a candid avowal of their trade policy. In dealing with the tariff the Republican party champions the interests of every great national industry, and its beneficent policy since its inception has been to protect the people from the ravages of the tariff. The Republican party holds up the magnificent record of the last two decades, in which the tariff has protected and fostered the growth of the United States, and has borne the burden of a mighty civil war, with hardly a hitch in its stride of progress. To-day the diversity of our resources and the general welfare of our fifty millions of people are the admiration and envy of the world. With such a record of past and such a testimony of the present, the Republican party is justified in asking the people to support its tariff policy, and the working people of the country."

Every man with free trade tendencies must have respect for the tariff. It is a protection, not a party which, although it is known to be for free trade, but the courage to say so, and shut out dodges and declares that it really hasn't any views worth mentioning. The position, and the lack of candor and common honesty in that of the Democrats, will lead many who have been inclined to free trade views, to re-examine the question for themselves.

SENATOR ALLISON'S REFORMATION.

The suicide of Mrs. Allison, following that of Senator Barre, will be a great shock to those who have known both in official society in Washington. It is not often that such events repeat themselves, with so short an interval, in the same social circle. Mrs. Allison will be remembered as a gentle and attractive woman—so gentle that the manner of her death makes it all the more of a shock. It is not a case in which the survivors will have anything to reproach themselves with. It often seems—and it often truly—when some violent act has been done by an insane person, that a plain duty has been neglected in not placing the person in a safe place under proper guard. But that was not the case in the case of Mrs. Allison. She was not a violent person, and no further action of that kind, if indeed it would have aggravated the trouble. Mrs. Allison had been under treatment for mental trouble, and had made a previous attempt to take her life. The best medical authorities had been followed, and it was thought she was not only free from danger, but that she was a recovered patient. Her death was the result of one of those sudden impulses of the unbalanced mind against which no precaution seems to avail. Senator Allison, who is everywhere esteemed for his public services and admired by all who knew him for his tender care of his loved wife, will have the sympathy of the country in his peculiar and terrible bereavement. The fact that he was believed to have refused the Secretaryship of the Treasury under Garfield, on account of his wife's illness, will be recalled now with melancholy interest.

ADVERTISING A DISGRACE.

The public sense of decency of the country has been insulted by the advertisement which has been imported to fight a prize-fight between a man and a woman. It is not safe to try conclusions with laws of Missouri or Kansas, and the brother has picked on Virginia, in the Indian Territory, as a spot where they will be least exposed to interruption and subsequent danger. The whole country, which is insulted by the advertisement, will be disgraced if the fight is allowed to take place. All parties of the country are involved in the liberty of the press. The heaviest liability is here in New York, where we have kept alive the gladiator spirit by our patronage of the Madison Square Garden exhibitions. Next to New York, Boston is to be censured for the barbarism of its worship of the bruiser Sullivan. New Orleans is guilty of having Ryan and Sullivan fight in the fight between the mudslingers which fanned into new life the smoldering flames of pugilism. The brutes are counting on the absence of any United States law against prize-fighting. Let us hope that they will without their hope. Virginia is in the Cherokee Nation. Let us hope that the laws of this unlettered but intelligent and honest Indiana provide a remedy that is too often found wanting in our States, and that the nation heralded disgrace to civilization will be prevented by the interference of the law.

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